

# DESERT AND MOUNTAIN CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** The Governing Board

**FROM:**  Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Hon. ASLA, Executive Officer

**DATE:** November 26, 2012

**SUBJECT:** **Agenda Item VI: Consideration of resolution authorizing acceptance of a grant of a conservation easement over APN 2552-002-900 in the Big Tujunga Wash from the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing acceptance of a grant of a conservation easement over APN 2552-002-900 in the Big Tujunga Wash from the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority.

Background: The subject ten acre property was acquired by the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) in 2010. The property contains a 400-foot stretch of the Big Tujunga Wash, with perennial flow through the Sunland area into the Los Angeles River. The property was in need of habitat restoration activities, and was identified as an important site to focus mitigation efforts. During the summer of 2012, the property benefitted from a habitat mitigation project, which cleared tons of concrete debris and exotic plant species from the eastern bank. A series of native plants have been installed within the last 30 days.

In April 2008, the Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a new set of rules for all mitigation programs, such as the Los Angeles County Aquatic Resources In-Lieu Fee Mitigation Program (Program), administered by the MRCA. This rule requires that mitigation sites be held under a third party conservation easement to ensure permanent site protection.

At the October 3, 2012 meeting, the MRCA Governing Board authorized granting the conservation easement over this subject property to the DMCA.

This action would authorize the DMCA to accept a conservation easement over all or a portion of the property. The property is within the jurisdictional boundary of the DMCA. There are no statutory requirements that require the DMCA to conduct any monitoring or reporting on the easement. Exact easement delineation details will be determined at a later date.